



Transition

Best Practice Update

Transition Camp

This Update reflects upon the Transition Camp sponsored by DPI Special Education at Lake Isabel Camp Grassick in July 2001.

Approximately two years ago, the idea of a camp specific to transition for students with disabilities was put to paper. Once the concept was identified, the partnerships were created; Camp Grassick Director Dan Mimnaugh was contacted and expressed interest. The existing brief summer schedule did not offer an available week until DPI Special Education received notice in March 2001 of an available week in July 2001. After significant discussion, criteria was established for this first pilot group of campers to include:

- a) adequate language and verbalization skills;
- b) IQ between 60 – 80;
- c) independent in daily cares; and,
- d) post school goals to include employment with minimal supports.

In our effort to recruit campers, applications were developed and disseminated to special education directors, Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities, parent and advocacy organizations. There was no cost to the family, student or special education unit; all costs were incurred by DPI - Special Education as a pilot venture to assess the value of learning critical transition skills in a camp environment. The schedule was developed, curriculum identified and topics finalized using a variety of presentation methods and speakers. DPI – Special Education recruited Linda Hartman, Grand Forks Special Education Coordinator to assist Valerie Fischer in supervision of the camping experience. Twenty-two students were accepted into the Transition Camp, which included all lodging and meals. Services provided include staff counselors (college students majoring in education/special education or health care), nurse/medical care and liability.

Throughout the week, daily sessions focused on self-advocacy, health, recreation and leisure, employment and daily living.

Below is a brief listing of session topics:

Self-advocacy

What is self-advocacy?
SHARE behaviors

Why is self-advocacy important?
I Plan

Health

What is Good Nutrition?
Kitchen Safety
Grooming / Hygiene

What is Bad Nutrition?
General Healthcare
First Aid

Employment

Interest Inventories
Job and work skills
Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Interviewing Skills & Tips
Social skills

Independent Living

Coin and currency identification
Personal Safety

Making change
Budgeting for a meal & outfit

Recreation & Leisure

Crafts
Basketball
Fishing
Adaptive water-skiing
Dancing

Softball
Swimming & beach time
Canoeing
Karaoke
Movies

Appendix A is a synopsis of the week's schedule and is attached at the end of this Update. According to the campers, special highlights of the week included karaoke, the personal makeovers and dance, having Sporting Chance volunteers from Bismarck spend a day helping the campers to experience water-skiing, and enjoying wonderful weather.

Guest Speakers included:

Louann Nider, Vocational Rehabilitation
Karen Horan, PRIDE
Mary Robinson, Dakota Center for Independent Living
Sgt. Mark Buschema, Bismarck Police Department
Dennis Lyons, Vocational Rehabilitation
Eunice Meidinger, MaryKay Cosmetics
Patrice Anderson, DPI – School Foods
Tatum Strickland, HIT, Inc.
Linda Hartman, GF Public Schools
Valerie Fischer, DPI Special Education

The impact of the Transition Camp will be evaluated throughout the 2001-2002 school year by camper, parent and case manager surveys, as well as IEP reviews and camp programmatic review by Camp Grassick staff and management. DPI Special Education will again offer the Transition Camp in

The last camp day included a parent luncheon in which the campers provided entertainment. Award certificates were presented to all campers by the National Elks GRE Arthur Mayer from New Jersey and Bob Rutten, State Director of Special Education.

DPI Special Education would like to acknowledge Elks Camp Grassick Director Dan Mimnaugh and his entire staff of counselors for their participation in making the Transition Camp such a wonderful experience for the campers.

APPENDIX A

Transition Camp Schedule July 22 – July 27, 2001 Elks Camp Grassick

	Monday 7/23	Tuesday 7/24	Wednesday 7/25	Thursday 7/26	Friday 7/27
7:00 am	Rise 'n shine	Rise 'n shine	Rise 'n shine	Rise 'n shine	Rise 'n shine
8:10	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30	Self-advocacy	Self-advocacy	Self-advocacy	Self-advocacy	Self-advocacy
10:30 – 12:00	Health	Health	Health	Health	Parent Luncheon & Awards Presentation Travel home
12:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	
2:00 – 3:00	Ind. Living	Ind. Living	Ind. Living	Ind. Living	
3:00 – 4:00	Rec & Leisure	Rec & Leisure	Rec & Leisure	Rec & Leisure	
4:30 – 5:30	Beach time	Beach time	Beach time	Beach time	
6:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:30	Evening Activity: Movie & popcorn	Evening Activity: Karaoke	Evening Activity: Movie, Campfire & songs	Evening Activity: Dance	
9:30	Counselor & Camper time	Counselor & Camper time	Counselor & Camper time	Counselor & Camper time	
11:00	Lights out	Lights out	Lights out	Lights out	